



## **Committee Schedule of Veterans Interest Week of March 24 - 28, 2014**

### **Monday, March 24, 2014**

Committee: House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs

Chair: Rep. Mary Murphy

Room: 200 State Office Building

Time: 12:15 PM (Note earlier meeting time.)

Agenda:

**HF2757** (Newton): Veterans homes cost of care calculations modified.

**HF2117** (Howe): Veteran hearing costs paid by the state.

Committee: House Health and Human Services Finance

Chair: Rep. Tom Huntley

Room: 5 State Office Building

Time: 6:00 PM

Agenda:

**HF2556** (Newton): Veterans housing and long-term care; new residential facility moratorium exemptions provided, grants provided for veteran housing needs assessments, and money appropriated.

### **Tuesday, March 25, 2014**

Committee: House Capital Investment

Chair: Rep. Alice Hausman

Room: 200 State Office Building

Time: 8:15 AM

Agenda: Informational-only hearings on:

**HF730** (Lesch): Minnesota Hmong-Lao veterans commemorative memorial funding provided, bonds issues, and money appropriated.

**HF82** (Erhardt): Edina; All-Veterans Memorial funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2348** (Lillie): North St. Paul; military veterans memorial funding provided, bonds issues, and money appropriated.

Committee: Senate Environment and Energy

Chair: Sen. John Marty

Room: 107 Capitol

Time: 12:00 PM

Agenda:

**SF2663** (Bakk): Disability-related angling and hunting licenses and special permit provisions modifications; Minnesota driver's license and identification card designations authority.

Committee: Senate State Departments and Veterans Division

Chair: Sen. Tom Saxhaug

Room: 107 Capitol

Time: 3:00 PM

Agenda:

**SF1978** (Johnson): Women veterans special license plates establishment and appropriation.

**SF2071** (Sheran): Combat wounded veterans motorcycle plates authorization.

**SF2717** (Gazelka): Wadena veterans memorial grant bond issue and appropriation.

### **Wednesday, March 26, 2014**

Committee: House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs

Chair: Rep. Mary Murphy

Room: 200 State Office Building

Time: 12:30 PM

Agenda:

**HF2363** (P. Anderson): Eagle's Healing Nest grant provided, and money appropriated. (Informational only)

**HF3186** (Wills): Disabled veteran's credit and definition of disabled veteran definitions modified for purposes of the veteran's preference. (Informational only)

## **State Legislative Update for the Week of March 17 - 21, 2014**

### ***Monday, March 17, 2014***

The **Veterans Day on the Hill Rally** was held at 10 AM in the Capitol Rotunda. The program included a presentation of colors, invocation and remarks from the Commissioner, committee chairs, the veterans service organizations, and the presidents of UVLC and MACVSO. The veterans were urged to meet with their area legislators to voice their support of veterans related issues.

### **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

#### **Senators Sieben, Dziedzic and Torres Ray introduced:**

**SF2699:** A bill for an act relating to veterans homes; modifying cost of care calculations; providing for annual adjustments amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 198.03, subdivisions 2, 3.

Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senator Hoffman introduced:**

**SF2700:** A bill for an act relating to state observances; creating Veterans' Voices Month; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 10.

Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senators Gazelka and Skoe introduced:**

**SF2717:** A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for the Wadena Veterans Memorial; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**House Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

**Lohmer; Johnson, B., and Dettmer introduced:**

**HF3113:** A bill for an act relating to taxation; income; providing a deduction for military compensation; amending Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, sections 290.01, subdivision 19b; 290.091, subdivision 2.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs.

**Radinovich introduced:**

**HF3117:** A bill for an act relating to game and fish; providing for trapping licenses without fee for disabled veterans; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 97A.441, by adding a subdivision.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy.

**Committee Hearings**

Committee: House State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs

Chair: Rep. Mary Murphy

The chair announced that the General Fund target for the committee was 0. Also, no fees or transfers from other funds will be permitted.

**HF2117 (Howe):** Veteran hearing costs paid by the state. This bill makes changes to the veterans preference hearing requirements contained in current law. Presently, a person who qualifies as a veteran under Minnesota law may not be terminated from certain employment positions in classified state civil service or in service to a political subdivision until after a hearing, if requested, where the employer must prove incompetence or misconduct. The bill makes numerous changes to this process.

Among other things, the bill removes the role of civil service boards. Currently, a civil service board is authorized to conduct the hearings. Instead, the bill would require only a three-person panel to conduct the hearings. Both parties choose one appointee to the panel, and the third is a jointly-selected arbitrator from the Bureau of Mediation Services. The bill also creates statutory timelines within which each party must act.

The bill also requires that the governmental subdivision must pay all costs of the hearing, exclusive of the veterans attorneys fees. The three-person panel must issue their decision within six months of the veterans receipt of a termination notice. During this time, the veteran is entitled to all pay and benefits. Lastly, the bill allows for the board to determine if the governmental subdivision acted with intentional disregard for the protections laid out in this section. Specifically, if the board finds that the governmental subdivision terminated the veteran without any factual evidence of incompetence or misconduct, or any other intentional disregard, the veteran is entitled to three times the actual damages sustained.

Both parties retain their right to appeal the board's decision to the district court upon written notice of appeal. The bill is effective for all termination notices issued on or after the day following final enactment. MDVA opposes the bill, in its current form, as does the UVLC. The bill, with a delete-all amendment, was held over.

**HF2011** (Dettmer): Veteran-owned small business certification modified for purposes of state procurement, contract bid preference for veteran-owned businesses required in situations involving capital investment projects. This bill creates a new method of certification for a veteran owned small business as it relates to contract bid preferences. Currently, the only method for a veteran-owned small business to become certified is to work through the certification offered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. That certification would still be necessary to receive a preference on federal contracts. The bill would require the department of administration to perform the certification, as this agency already certifies other targeted small businesses as required in statute. An oral amendment was attached to the A-1 amendment, which was then passed. The Department of Administration testified that they did not have the funding required for 2 FTE as outlined in the fiscal note. The bill, as amended, was held over.

Committee: Senate Jobs, Agriculture and Rural Development

Chair: Sen. Dan Sparks

**SF1784** (Koenen): Veterans Day time off for veterans requirement. This bill requires an employer to provide veterans with time off for Veterans Day, unless providing time off would impact public health or safety or would cause the employer significant economic or operational disruption. The employer is permitted to pay or to not pay the employee for the time off taken. The bill was amended and recommended to pass.

***Tuesday, March 18, 2014***

### **Committee Hearings**

Committee: Senate Judiciary

Chair: Sen. Ron Latz

**SF1807** (Saxhaug): Former and current military members expedited and temporary licensing processing requirement by state agencies and professional licensing boards. The bill was recommended to pass and re-referred to the Committee on Finance.

Committee: House Health and Human Services Policy

Chair: Rep. Tina Liebling

**HF2556** (Newton): Veterans housing and long-term care; new residential facility moratorium exemptions provided, grants provided for veteran housing needs assessments, and money appropriated. This bill does not allow for the issuing of new foster care licenses or community residential setting licenses for the care of disabled veterans if those veterans require nursing home level care in veteran exclusive homes. County agencies may enter into agreements for new group residential housing beds for a group residential housing provider operating a facility of up to 45 beds and who provides services to veterans as a board and lodging facility with supportive services or a licensed chemical dependency treatment program. Finally, \$250,000 is appropriate in FY15 for up to five grants to governmental or nongovernmental organizations to conduct a housing needs assessment for veterans in a community. The study must be completed by July 30, 2016. The bill passed and was referred to the Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

**HF2396** (Morgan): Military members license processing expedition required for state agencies and professional licensing boards required, temporary licensure provided, and rulemaking authorized. This bill directs affected state agencies and boards to develop an expedited procedure for issuing a professional services license or certificate to a qualified individual who is an active duty member of the military, the spouse of an active duty member of the military, or an inactive veteran who left military service with an honorable or general discharge within two years of when the individual applies for a license or certificate. It allows agencies and boards to issue temporary licenses and certificates to qualified individuals and to adopt rules to effect this provision. With a delete-all amendment, the bill was passed and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Committee: House Transportation Policy

Chair: Rep. Ron Erhardt

**HF1916** (Newton): Special women veterans license plates authorized, and money appropriated. This bill creates a \$5 surcharge on each \$10 fee. This fee is to be deposited in the women veterans license plate account, which is established in the state treasury. Money in this account is to be given to the Women Veterans Initiative Working Group as a grant to promote public recognition of women serving in the military, and women veterans. The plates must bear the inscription “woman veteran”. The bill, as amended, was passed and referred to the Committee on Transportation Finance.

Committee: Senate State Departments and Veterans Division

Chair: Sen. Tom Saxhaug

**SF2202** (Saxhaug): Minnesota humanities center veterans voices appropriation. This bill, as amended, would provide \$100,000 in FY15 to the Minnesota Humanities Center to work with veterans to educate and engage the community regarding veterans’ contributions, knowledge, skills and experiences through the Veterans’ Voices program. The bill was laid on the table for possible inclusion in the omnibus budget bill.

Committee: Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development

Chair: Sen. Terri Bonoff

**SF2001** (Bonoff): Public postsecondary institutions resident tuition status to veterans establishment. A person who is honorably discharged from the armed forces of the US is entitled to the resident tuition rate at MN public postsecondary institutions. The bill, as amended, was passed and referred to the State and Local Government Committee.

***Wednesday, March 19, 2014***

### **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

#### **Senators Nelson and Senjem introduced:**

**SF2768:** A bill for an act relating to cultural heritage; appropriating money to the Minnesota Veterans and Emergency Services Museum.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

#### **Senator Fischbach introduced:**

**SF2778:** A bill for an act relating to veterans preference; providing that cost of hearing be paid by the state, political subdivision, municipality, or public agency; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 197.481, by adding a subdivision.

Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

#### **Senator Anderson introduced:**

**SF2807:** A bill for an act relating to veterans; modifying disabled veteran's credit and definition of disabled veteran for purposes of the veteran's preference; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 197.455, subdivisions 5, 6.

Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

### **House Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

#### **Wills, Dettmer, Newton, Persell, Howe, Scott and Kresha introduced:**

**HF3186:** A bill for an act relating to veterans; modifying disabled veteran's credit and definition of disabled veteran for purposes of the veteran's preference; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 197.455, subdivisions 5, 6.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs.

#### **Dorholt and Lien introduced:**

**HF3213:** A bill for an act relating to higher education; modifying the cost of attendance calculation for purposes of the Minnesota GI bill program; amending Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 197.791, subdivision 5.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Veterans Affairs.

### **Committee Hearings**

Committee: House Labor, Workplace and Regulated Industries

Chair: Rep. Sheldon Johnson

**HF2447** (Falk): Employers required to provide veterans time off for Veterans Day. The bill was recommended to pass and placed on the General Register.

Committee: House Government Operations

Chair: Rep. Michael Nelson

**HF2852** (Dill): Game and fish laws modified, vehicle use for hunting provisions modified, oversight committee provisions modified, wildlife management area provisions modified, license provisions and fees modified, taking wild animal provisions modified, nonlethal hazing of Canada geese authorized, disability-related angling and hunting licenses and special permits modified, driver's license and Minnesota identification card designations provided, obsolete language updated and eliminated, prior appropriations modified, general permit issuance required, and report required.

The sections of veterans interest state that a driver's license or ID card issued by the state with the applicable disability designation (under a new designation system proposed in this bill) is satisfactory evidence to prove eligibility for a free angling license, free deer hunting license and/or a free small game license available to 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans. The bill requires the Department of Transportation to issue/renew, upon request, driver's licenses or ID cards with a new 100 percent disabled veteran designation provided satisfactory evidence is provided. The applicant must be a veteran, have a certified copy of the veteran's discharge papers, and provide satisfactory evidence of a 100 percent total and permanent service-connected disability as determined by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill passed and was referred to the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

Committee: House Public Safety Finance and Policy

Chair: Rep. Michael Paymar

**HF2469** (Savick): Military members license processing expedition required for state agencies and professional licensing boards required, temporary licensure provided, and rulemaking authorized. A delete-all amendment was passed that would direct the governor to designate representatives of professional licensing boards to report to the legislature by Jan. 15, 2015 on procedures for issuing temporary licenses or certificates to qualified persons who are active duty military members, spouses, and veterans who have recently left military service. The bill, as amended, was passed and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Committee: House State Government and Veterans Affairs

Chair: Rep. Mary Murphy

**HF2569** (Sawatzky): Educational opportunity for military children interstate compact adopted, and military-connected youth identifier required. The bill passed and was referred to the Education Finance Committee.

Committee: House Transportation Policy

Chair: Rep. Ron Erhardt

**HF2961** (Dill): Disability-related angling and hunting licenses and special permit provisions modified, and Minnesota driver's license and identification card designations provided. The bill was passed, as amended, and referred to the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance.

Committee: Senate State and Local Government

Chair: Sen. Sandra Pappas

**SF2118** (Dahle): Interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children. The bill passed and was referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill passed and was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

**SF2001** (Bonoff): Public postsecondary institutions resident tuition status to veterans establishment. The bill was recommended to pass.

*Thursday, March 20, 2014*

### **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

### **House Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest:

#### **Norton introduced:**

**HF3243:** A bill for an act relating to cultural heritage; appropriating money to the Minnesota Veterans and Emergency Services Museum.

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Legacy.

### **Committee Hearings**

Committee: Senate Rules and Administration

Chair: Sen. Tom Bakk

**SF208** (Anderson): Veterans Honor and Remember Flag designation as a symbol of recognition and honor for fallen military service members. The bill identifies the Honor and Remember flag as an appropriate symbol to acknowledge the selfless sacrifice of fallen members of the US armed forces and encourages the chief administrator of each governmental building or facility within this state to display the Honor and Remember Flag on specified days. The flag is protected by copyright so a manufacturer must obtain a license from the copyright holder to make the flag. The bill passed as amended.

*Friday, March 21, 2014*

### **Senate Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None

### **House Session**

Bill introductions of veterans interest: None